

FLIES EXPOSED: Dirty details



Flies may seem like a harmless annoyance – but they are proven vectors of disease. Discover why having a fly control program matters more than you think.

A FLY IS BORN

PHASE 1:

Eggs

Flies lay their eggs in decomposing animals, feces, exposed foods, garbage, or other decaying organic debris. A single female fly can lay 900 eggs in her lifetime!

PHASE 2:

Larvae (aka Maggots)

Eggs hatch into larvae, commonly called maggots, typically within 48 hours. The maggots feed on the waste they are born in.

PHASE 4:

Adults

Depending on temperature and humidity, adult flies emerge from the pupal case in a few days to a few weeks. Adult flies typically live 3 - 4 weeks.

PHASE 3:

Pupae

Within 4 - 7 days, larvae turn into pupae, burrowing into the surface of the food and forming a hard case around themselves for development.

At temperatures around 86°F (30°C), a fly can complete its lifecycle from egg to adult in just 10 days.



Dependent on species, adult flies thrive in temperatures from 75° - 85°F (24 - 29°C).

A FLY EATS

Outside of reproducing, a fly's main goal in life is to find food. Depending on species, flies can feed on many different sources.



PLANTS & NECTAR



SUGARY SUBSTANCES



LIQUIDS



DECOMPOSING ANIMALS



HUMAN FOODS



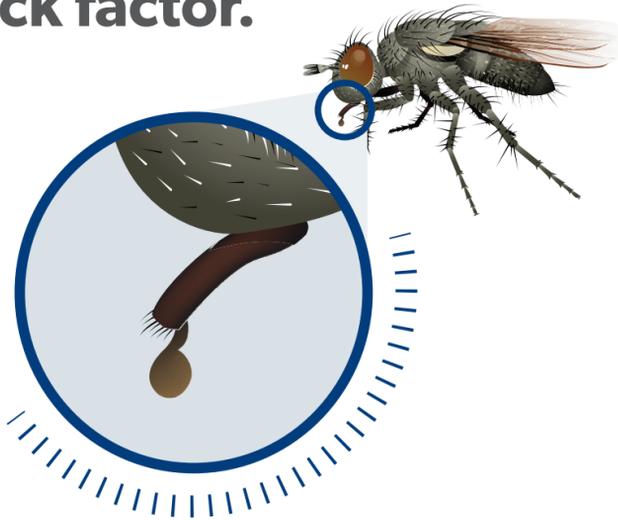
FECES & SEWAGE



GARBAGE & DECAYING ORGANIC MATTER

How flies eat: The ick factor.

- Adult flies can't chew food.
- They have a straw-like mouthpart called a proboscis to slurp or absorb food.
- To consume solid food, they regurgitate saliva with special enzymes onto it that help break it down to a liquid.



KEEPING FLIES AWAY

Good sanitation is critical to reduce problems with flies. These tips can help.



Close doors & windows when not in use. Use screens or air curtains for those that must remain open.



Empty indoor and outdoor garbage cans daily. Seal bags tightly and remove to an exterior dumpster.



Ask your pest control technician about exclusion. This seals gaps around doors, windows, pipes, etc. to prevent fly entry.



Have dumpsters emptied regularly. Routinely wash or clean dumpsters or have them replaced. Wash down dumpster pads.



Install insect light traps in high activity areas. It is important to work with a pest control expert for best placement.



Ask your pest control partner about an exterior baiting program to help reduce activity if flies are a problem outside your facility.

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